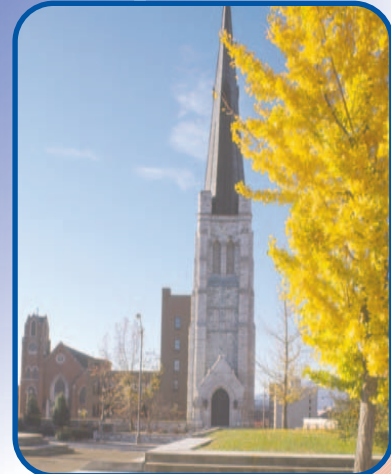




**The Three-Star Program:  
achieving economic  
excellence by assisting  
communities with  
essential tools needed for  
growth and development.**



**THREE-STAR**



**TENNESSEE**  
ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
MATTHEW KISBER, COMMISSIONER  
312 EIGHTH AVENUE NORTH  
ELEVENTH FLOOR  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243  
[HTTP://WWW.TNECD.GOV](http://www.tnecd.gov)  
TEL: 615.741.1888 • FAX: 615.741.7306  
TOLL FREE: 877.768.6374





## What is the Governor's Three-Star Program?

The Three-Star Program is designed as a road map to assist local communities in their effort to achieve excellence in community and economic development. Those participant communities will be guided through a comprehensive plan of essential criteria developed by local economic development professionals and by a cooperative collaboration of various state agencies.



## What are the basic requirements to qualify?

A prerequisite in attaining any level of certification in the program is the attainment of a set of basic criteria that serves as the foundation of the entire program:

- Joint Economic and Community Development Board as per Public Chapter 1101 – Compliance Date: July 1, 2004
- Resolution of Local Legislative Body confirming compliance with Federal Title VI regulations
- Five-Year Strategic Economic Development Plan updated annually. *Must include goals, plan to accomplish goals and projected timeline in achieving goals. This strategic economic development plan must address existing industry, manufacturing recruitment, workforce development, retail/service, tourism, agriculture, infrastructure assessment and educational assessment.*  
Compliance Date: January 1, 2005
- Resolution by Local Legislative Body adopting Strategic Economic Development Plan. Compliance Date: January 1, 2005
- Resolution by Local Legislative Body to participate in the program (designate contact)
- Active Economic Development Organization(s). *This must be a local or regional effort with a sustained funding source. If more than one economic development organization serves a*



*community, a work plan clearly identifying areas of responsibility for each organization must be developed and adopted by the respective governing boards of each organization.*

## What steps are taken to become a certified community?

A community may become a certified community by accumulating points for Level I, Level II or Level III certification. When sufficient points are accumulated for certification, the Regional Community Economic Development Consultant (RCEDC) should be notified. The RCEDC will schedule an audit visit to the community. Some program elements will be audited visually while others will require documentation.



## What are the key components in the Program?

- Community involvement
- Development of strategic plan and adoption
- Expansion of economic development opportunities
- Improved high school graduation rates
- Expansion of existing industries
- Regional partnerships
- Improvement of key economic indicators

## When will communities be recognized for achieving Three-Star status?

Recognition and awards will be presented at that year's Governor's Conference.

## How do you begin the process?

After reviewing the program requirements, the county mayor or city mayor should compose a letter to the Commissioner of Economic & Community Development stating the intent of the county or city to participate in the pilot. Soon after receipt of the letter by ECD, a regional community economic development consultant will contact you and the exciting journey will begin.

## Where should we go for information to get started?

You may call the Tennessee Department of Economic & Community Development at (615) 741-1888 or visit the web site at for more information.

